

HOUSE RESOLUTION 170

By Powers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Keystone XL pipeline workers for their commitment to America's energy independence.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should recognize those estimable individuals who, through their tireless commitment to their profession, have improved the daily lives of the people of Tennessee and our nation; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2021, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline project; and

WHEREAS, first proposed in 2008, the Keystone XL pipeline was expected to carry 830,000 barrels per day of Alberta oil sands crude to Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the 1,200-mile stretch of the U.S. portion of the pipeline had been delayed for more than twelve years due to opposition from environmentalists; and

WHEREAS, prior to the cancellation of the \$9 billion project, pipeline owner TC Energy had awarded more than \$1.6 billion worth of contracts in 2020 to six major American contractors to execute pipeline construction across 800 miles in three states in the U.S. on the Keystone XL pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the six contractors were directly responsible for hiring more than 7,000 workers in 2021, with special emphasis placed on hiring locally first and giving priority to qualified local and indigenous-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, pipeline construction requires thousands of part-time and temporary workers during the preconstruction and construction phases, and a smaller number of permanent employees are required once a pipeline is operational; and

WHEREAS, the Keystone XL pipeline was expected to employ more than 11,000 Americans in 2021, creating more than \$1.6 billion in gross wages and injecting hundreds of millions of dollars in middle-class wages into the American economy; and

WHEREAS, a wide range of businesses and services were needed to support the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, including contractors, grocery stores, restaurants, catering services, gas stations, lodging, cleaning services, construction supply stores, lumber yards, and auto parts stores, together supporting more than 60,000 jobs across North America; and

WHEREAS, because of the cancellation of the Keystone XL pipeline expansion, nearly 1,000 people immediately lost their livelihoods at the height of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, if completed, the Keystone XL pipeline would provide the United States with a stable, secure supply of crude oil from North America, reaching Gulf Coast refiners and meeting critical needs for transportation fuel and useful manufactured products; and

WHEREAS, with the increasing volatility of international oil supplies, the U.S. must ensure its energy independence; restarting the Keystone XL pipeline would be a decisive step toward increasing the supply of North-American-produced oil at a critical time; and

WHEREAS, we wish to commend the Keystone XL pipeline workers, those whose jobs were lost and those whose jobs were denied, for contributing to America's energy independence by ensuring a stable domestic oil supply; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend the men and women who worked on the Keystone XL pipeline, salute their commitment to ensuring America's energy independence, and extend to these exceptional professionals our best wishes for every success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.